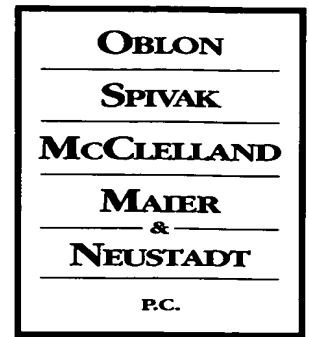


ITW

Docket No.: 240298US0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NORMAN F. OBLON
(703) 413-3000
NOBLON@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/618,656
Applicants: Toshiya MATSUBARA, et al.
Filing Date: July 15, 2003
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING INORGANIC
SPHERES
Group Art Unit: 1754
Examiner:

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

STATUS REQUEST FOR FIRST OFFICE ACTION (in duplicate)

Our check in the amount of **\$0.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

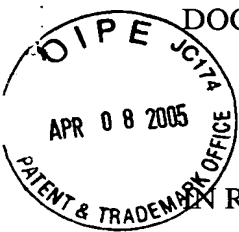
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DOCKET NO.: 240298US0/mms

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Toshiya MATSUBARA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/618,656

GROUP NO: 1754

FILED: July 15, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING INORGANIC SPHERES

FIRST OFFICE ACTION STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of the approximate date a first Official Action will be issued in this Application.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
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